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CPYRGHT

Judge Reasserts Stand On Cuban Deal Legality

MIAMI, Feb. 10 (AP) — A ruling of the Logan Act might United States District Judge be involved. The Logan Act Emmett C. Choate, who has sug- forbids private citizens to ne- gested that the ransom deal gotiate with foreign govern- for Cuban invasion prisoners ments. may be legal, said today that At the hearing, Choate set he assumes U. S. Attorney a 10-day period for submission General Robert Kennedy of briefs on whether his court would welcome a court test. has jurisdiction.

"The Attorney General has The judge said in an inter- a primary duty to interpret view with the Miami News the law," Choate said. "But that he wanted to make it clear that remarks he made at the hearing did not constitute a ruling.

"Robert Kennedy, I am sure, "I haven't prejudiced the is no conscious law violator, case," he said, "but there is a grave question whether the Logan Act has been violated."

Choate said "the question is whether individuals, with or without the cooperation of the Government, may conduct ransom negotiations with a foreign government."

Choate had suggested Thurs- day during hearing of a pet- ition to block shipment of food and medicine to Cuba in pay- ment for prisoners, that vio-